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LETTER DATED 16 JUNE 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THF UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement issued on 14 June 1995 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation concerning the situation in the former Yugoslavia.

I should be grateful if you could have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex

STATEMENT DATED 14 JUNE 1995 ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

There is growing concern in Moscow regarding the evolution of the situation in the former Yugoslavia. There are more and more indications of a real danger of sliding towards a widespread military confrontation, both in Bosnia and in Croatia. The attempt to change decisions by force is causing a resurgence of the crisis and threatens to lead to great bloodshed and to renewed suffering for the civilian population, departure of the United Nations peace-keeping forces and, perhaps, even to expansion of the conflict beyond its present confines.

We again urge the parties to the conflict very strongly to renounce all attempts to settle their problems on the battlefield rather than at the negotiating table. The possibilities in this regard are never exhausted.

The international community must vigorously oppose any other kind of approach. Should it prove necessary, Russia will intervene actively along these lines, first and foremost within the United Nations Security Council, in its capacity as a permanent member.

Russia supports the United Nations peace-keeping forces in Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia. The peace-keepers, who are distinguishing themselves by their courage and selflessness, are helping to check the conflict and prevent it from spreading, to provide humanitarian assistance to the affected population and to create conditions conducive to peace initiatives. We strongly condemn all cases of detention, aggression and other illegal acts directed against United Nations personnel. As a State which has contributed military contingents to the peace-keeping forces in Croatia and in Bosnia, Russia is as anxious as anyone else to put an end to the cowardly attacks, regardless of their origin, perpetrated against peace-keeping personnel.

At the same time, the strengthening of UNPROFOR's means of protecting the lives of the peace-keepers and ensuring their security must in no event lead the United Nations forces to become party to the conflict.

The action of the United Nations forces in the former Yugoslavia must always be guided by that fundamental principle: the need to preserve its impartial and peaceful nature and to maintain the existing procedures governing decisions, the decisive role being up to the United Nations.

The flagrant violations of the arms embargo imposed by the United Nations Security Council on all republics on the territory of the former Yugoslavia, which are currently occurring, are absolutely inadmissible. They stir up the conflict and create illusions by making it seem as though it is possible to reach a solution by military means. In the interest of a settlement, the Security Council must take effective measures to put an end to this disregard for its decisions.

As was agreed at the ministerial meeting of the Contact Group which was held in The Hague, Russia believes that it is now necessary to deploy supplementary efforts to give a real new impetus to the settlement process. In this context the issue of the lifting of sanctions against Belgrade is of major importance.

We will continue to work actively to achieve a political settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia with our partners within the United Nations Security Council, the international Contact Group and with all who advocate peace rather than war.